

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 2, 4 and 6.

Please amend claims 1, 3 and 5 as set forth below in the "Listing of Claims".

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A catalyst for purifying exhaust gas, which reduces nitrogen oxides in an exhaust gas containing excessive oxygen under the existence of methanol and/or dimethyl ether, wherein the catalyst consists of a proton type  $\beta$  zeolite having a  $\text{SiO}_2/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  molar ratio within 20-70.

Claim 2 (Canceled)

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): A method of purifying exhaust gas, wherein said method includes removing nitrogen oxides in the exhaust gas containing excessive oxygen therein, comprising contacting the exhaust gas with a catalyst consisting of a proton type  $\beta$  zeolite catalyst in the presence of methanol and/or dimethyl ether as reducing agent, wherein the proton type  $\beta$  zeolite has a  $\text{SiO}_2/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  molar ratio within 20-70.

Claim 4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A method of purifying exhaust gas, wherein said method removes reduces nitrogen oxides in the exhaust gas containing excessive oxygen therein, comprising contacting the exhaust gas with a catalyst in the presence of methanol and/or dimethyl ether as reducing agent, wherein the catalyst comprises a proton type  $\beta$  zeolite catalyst having a  $\text{SiO}_2/\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  molar ratio within 20-70.

Claim 6 (Canceled)